

## Message Text

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12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL VLADIVOSTOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258382

TOSEC 311

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 258382 SENT SEOUL INFO TOKYO DATED  
NOV 22.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258382

TOSEC 311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, PFOR

SUBJECT: THE SOVIET LINE AS THE SUMMIT APPROACHES

TOKYO FOR S/S

1. FOLLOWING IS INR ROUND-UP OF STATEMENTS BY SOVIET MEDIA  
AND SPOKESMEN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS BEFORE VLADIVOSTOK.

2. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE DESCRIBED THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING AS  
A "NEW AND IMPORTANT STEP" ON THE DETENTE COURSE--ONE  
WHICH WILL "PROVE SIGNIFICANT"--AND THEY HAVE ALSO HAD  
TRADITIONAL WORDS OF WELCOME FOR PRESIDENT FORD.

3. BUT, AS COMPARED WITH THE GENERALLY EUPHORIC LINE TAKEN  
BEFORE PREVIOUS SUMMIT MEETINGS, IN RECENT DAYS, THERE HAS  
BEEN INCREASING EMPHASIS ON PROBLEM AREAS AND SOVIET  
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GRIEVANCES. SOVIET SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN MARKEDLY CRITICAL OF THE US ROLE IN US-SOVIET COOPERATION AND HAVE PUT THE ONUS ON THE US FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN RELATIONS.

4. RECENT STATEMENTS BY SOVIET LEADERS HAVE EMPHASIZED CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED SOVIET-US RELATIONS.

--(A) GROMYKO IN HIS REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 6 TERMED THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING OF "GREAT IMPORTANCE."

--(B) BREZHNEV'S POLITICAL DEPUTY, KIRILENKO, STRESSED IN A SPEECH AT ASHKHABAD, NOVEMBER 15, THE SOVIET COMMITMENT

TO DEEPENING DETENTE AND MAKING IT IRREVERSIBLE.

5. EVEN SO, DURING THE PAST WEEK SOVIET SPOKESMEN HAVE TAKEN A HARD LINE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

--(A) DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE MANZHULO WARNED IN PRAVDA ON NOVEMBER 19 THAT DETENTE WAS "HARDLY COMPATIBLE" WITH CONTINUING TRADE DISCRIMINATION.

--(B) SOVIET ROCKET FORCES COMMANDER TOLUBKO FLATLY DENIED IN AN UNUSUAL INTERVIEW IN THE NOVEMBER 11-17 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY "NEDELYA" AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE CHEATING ON THE ARMS AGREEMENTS.

--(C) SOVIET SPECIALISTS ON US AFFAIRS, WRITING IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE "USA JOURNAL," INCREASED THEIR CRITICISM OF DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S RETARGETING PROPOSALS AND ADDED HIS EUROPEAN US TROOP REORGANIZATION STATEMENTS TO THEIR ANTI-DETENTE LIST.

--(D) THE SAME ISSUE SHARPLY ATTACKED THE US TRIDENT SUBMARINE PROGRAM AND THE "DOMINANT TREND" IN THE US TOWARD BUILDUP OF NUCLEAR MISSILE POTENTIAL.

--(E) RADIO MOSCOW BROADCAST OF NOVEMBER 17 STATED SOVIET UNHAPPINESS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN THE MBFR TALKS, "AT ALL, FOR OVER A YEAR."

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--(F) SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS THE NEED FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST TALKS AND HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR CRITICISM OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. AN "IZVESTIYA" COMMENTARY ON NOVEMBER 20 SAID THAT ISRAEL'S "WARMONGERING" WAS BEING AIDED BY AN "UNINTERRUPTED FLOW" OF WEAPONS "FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN" AND ALSO WAS HIGHLY

CRITICAL OF THE SINAI AND GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.  
MEANWHILE, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE  
ARAB OIL-WARFARE TACTICS.

6. THE SOVIETS' RESORT TO STATEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE NOTED  
ABOVE SUGGEST THAT THEY WILL OPEN WITH A LIST OF  
GRIEVANCES AT VLADIVOSTOK. INGERSOL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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